

"In holding these provisions do not apply to chiropractors, the Appellate Department pointed out that the Chiropractic Act regulates the use of the prefix 'Dr.' by chiropractors, requiring them to use after their names when 'Dr.' is prefixed the letters 'D. C.', the word 'chiropractor' or other appropriate designation of their profession.

"Attention was also called to the fact that the Chiropractic Act repealed those provisions of the Medical Practice Act with which it conflicted and it was declared that the authority attempted to be set up in the 1929 amendment of the Medical Practice Act could have no bearing because, being a legislative enactment, it could not obtain as against an initiative measure such as the chiropractic law.

"The opinion was concurred in by Presiding Judge McLucas and Associate Judge Bishop."

## A PLEA FOR DOCTORS

### BEING A TRIBUTE FROM A LAYMAN

Many of the pamphleteers who write for the lay press of America have taken much pleasure in the last several years in pointing out the deficiencies in medical practice. The ignorance displayed in some of the said articles has been little less than pathetic. Unfortunately, a considerable amount of the stuff has been absorbed by many of the unthinking laity as legitimate and warranted criticism.

It was with keen interest, therefore, that the editor read the article below, "A Plea for Doctors," by Peter B. Kyne, which was printed as one of the feature articles in the Hearst newspapers of April 4, 1932. It is hoped that all members of the California Medical Association will give themselves the pleasure of reading Kyne's tribute to the medical profession, which follows:

"Some of my doctor friends tell me that during these dark days they aren't as busy as they used to be. People cannot afford to be sick; withering of the bank roll has denied them the joys of ill health, and those who do become ill get up out of the sickbeds promptly and start hustling a living. Surgeons are just as busy as they ever were, but neither internal medicine men nor surgeons are making the money they used to make and aren't collecting very much of what they earn. It is a rare thing for a doctor to sue one for his bill, for to a very great extent physicians are a soft-hearted, sympathetic lot, and if a patient cannot pay his bill they never bother him very much about it, or else make their fee so reasonable that none but those lost to a sense of shame will evade payment of it.

"Once I heard a very rich man scream in agony because a noted surgeon had charged him a thousand dollars for removing his appendix. Now this man knew he could afford the best and he wanted the best and got it. He would have been afraid to entrust his fat person to a doctor who would have done, perhaps, a job equally good for a hundred dollars. Yes, he wanted the best, but after he had had the best he graded it with the mediocre—as far as remuneration was concerned. He submitted to that operation, feeling perfectly secure and serene because he knew he was in unusually skillful hands and he forgot such skill and such a reputation for skill had not been acquired save by long years of apprenticeship, during which thousands of appendixes had been removed without charge. He forgot that his life was worth more to the community than that of a charity patient and he refused to pay the bill without indulging in a disgusting tirade and pleading poverty and oppression. People forget that the doctor, like the concert singer, may not adhere to one price; that the rich patient must bear the responsibility of the rich and the strong to society's general health by taking up the slack of the doctor's support where the poor and weak fail.

"The true physician has in him a Christ-like quality. He has a vast sympathy for sick people, a vast pity for the poor and the helpless. So he is imposed upon, for most human beings are alert to note quick and unstinted sympathy and are not at all averse to trading upon it. And the doctor, who knows human beings so much better than they know themselves, is, somehow, neither shocked, distressed nor made bitter by evidences of ingratitude. . . . I knew a fairly prosperous man who for years had suffered from a disgusting skin disease. A clever gastro-enterologist got hold of him, cleaned up his wretched internal mechanism and lo! the skin lesion disappeared. The patient was under daily treatment for two months and how he did scream when the doctor sent him a bill for \$250. He paid under protest, but he had his revenge. He wouldn't give his trade to such a bandit in the future, so his skin lesion returned because he neglected himself, and he started his weary round of the doctors who had failed to cure him in bygone years. It was a comfort to me to know that he never ceased to itch until he found himself entirely surrounded by German silver handles.

"Few persons realize how hard-earned is the doctor's competence, which, nine times out of ten, is surprisingly modest. He is the last relic of civilized slavery. . . . He goes to the theater, telling himself he shouldn't because Old Lady Gazookis is in the hospital and she's just the sort to whom a minor gas pain will mean a capital operation. So the doctor leaves his seat number and name at the box office and in the middle of the second act an usher comes and whispers that the doctor is wanted on the telephone. And it's Old Lady Gazookis! If a doctor is a proprietor of a half decent practice he seldom eats a meal in peace, and in his middle years, what with hastily eaten meals and broken rest and overwork he surrenders to angina pectoris, the scourge of the medical profession, and a youthful hopeful steps into his practice and goes the same route in the fullness of time.

"Doctors and army and navy officers have in them something of the same holy zeal of a monk. Their professions call for a renunciation of worldly wealth and place; they work for the joy of the job and get little thanks and much criticism for it and are never really appreciated until a grave emergency arises. I am much in favor of doctors. The only one I never liked was an army medico who got a private by the name of Kyne mixed up with another private by the name of Klein, and slipped Kyne three large beakers of Epsom salts intended for Klein. At that the poor doctor was terribly sorry and I suppose Kyne would have forgiven him if he hadn't been suffering from tropical dysentery at the time. Some sentimentalists (I suspect he was a florist) invented Mother's Day. I believe we ought to have Doctor's Day, and on that day send in our checks for all we owe our doctor in cash and try to express something of what we owe him for the things that money can never buy."

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO\*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. V, No. 5, May 1907

*From some editorial notes:*

*Our New Rulers.*—The House of Delegates, at the Del Monte meeting, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, George H. Evans, San Francisco; first vice-president, J. A. McKee, Sacramento; second vice-president, Jno. C. King, Banning; secretary, Philip Mills Jones, San Francisco. . . . The president has appointed on the Pure Food Committee F. C. E. Mattison, chairman, and George H. Kress, Stanley Black, R. L. Porter and W. F. Snow. The next place of meeting is to be Coronado.

. . . At the recent meeting of the State Society, the House of Delegates passed some resolutions authorizing very important undertakings. . . .

. . . Closely associated with this is the appointment of a Committee on Pure Food Control. This committee is to coöperate with similar committees to be organized in the various counties and had its origin in Los Angeles, when a committee of this sort has been working to better the milk supply. It was found easy to control the milk produced in the county, but little could be done to prevent the income of exceedingly dirty milk from adjoining counties. This is but one of the many things about which the public needs education from our profession and it is partly the work of these committees to see that the work of enlightenment is systematized and carried out. . . .

*Worked Again?*—When the office of a sure-thing operator of New York was raided, some few years ago, enormous quantities of letters from doctors, lawyers and parsons were found. The detective who had charge of the raid is said to have stated as his opinion that parsons and physicians were about the "easiest suckers" of all, to work. It would seem so. The state journal and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* have for some time been calling attention to specific instances of "working" the medical profession by nostrum men of sorts. . . .

\* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

**Educate the Public.**—The example set by two or three of our county societies should not be ignored by the others; all should make an effort to arrange meetings between the medical societies and the bar associations, ministerial associations and prominent citizens of all classes generally. Nor should such meetings ignore the commercial side of our profession. If the laity once comes to realize that to be an up-to-date physician is not an inexpensive matter, there will be a better appreciation of decent fees. A poorly paid doctor is generally not a good doctor, for he cannot keep himself supplied with current literature nor provide the required armamentarium; and every patient is entitled to and should receive the services of a good average up-to-date physician. . . .

**From an Article: "Annual Address of the President" by R. F. Rooney, M. D., Auburn.**—Ladies and gentlemen and members of the Medical Society of the State of California: Owing to a slight unpleasantness—duration, forty-five seconds—which occurred in San Francisco one year ago, followed by the disastrous fire, it again becomes my pleasant duty to preside over this august body, in annual session assembled. I am an accident in this chair at this meeting, holding the unique position of president for the second consecutive year. This was neither your fault nor mine, so no comment is needed—merely remarking that it was due to "circumstances over which we had no control." Under these conditions, being the "accident" that I am, I do not intend to inflict upon you a long address. But you need not sigh with satisfaction at this statement, as I cannot let you escape entirely free.

I feel it incumbent upon me at this time to enter a little into detail concerning the catastrophe which so quickly ended our meeting one year ago, and to note such things as may prove of interest to you. . . .

On the 17th day of April, one year ago, we met in the city of San Francisco, in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, for our annual session. . . . We anticipated a rich treat, both scientifically and socially. . . .

We retired to our beds in peace and quiet, and at 5:15 the next morning were shaken out of our beds, and our belief in the stability of our Mother Earth, by the great earthquake which directly and indirectly wrought such ruin and havoc in San Francisco. . . .

And here, as president of the Medical Society of the State of California, and on behalf of its members, I wish to record my deep gratitude to all our medical brethren, wherever they may dwell, who stretched out helping hands to the unfortunate of our brethren in the city of San Francisco at their time of need. Thanks to this timely aid and their own pluck, nearly every medical man in the city is upon his feet again.

**From an Article on "Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California—Minutes of the House of Delegates."**—The House of Delegates was called to order April 16, 1907, 8:45 p. m., by the president, Dr. R. F. Rooney. . . .

#### Report of Executive Committee

(6) **Medical Register.**—Recommends that, for the present, the Register be issued as a supplement to the journal and of the same size and form, at the usual time of publication. (On motion this section was adopted as read.) . . .

#### Report of the Council

**Mr. President and Delegates:** The loss to the Society by the fire of last April was very serious, exceeding \$3000. The actual financial loss, however, was by no means the most serious, as all of the records of the Society, with the exception of the minutes of the Council and the account books, contracts and vouchers, were destroyed. Up to the present time these

records have been but partly re-established, as the expense of reconstructing the card file of physicians is one that the Council has not felt that the Society could yet afford. The work should be undertaken at the earliest possible time.

Donations from Los Angeles, \$913; King County, Washington, \$106, and Marin County, \$25, were received by the Council for the State Society, and the thanks of the Council were extended to the donors. This assistance aided very materially in carrying on the work of the Society until the end of the year, when the income for 1907 began to come in.

In March, after the passage and approval of the new law governing the practice of medicine in this state, and the State Board of Medical Examiners requested the Council to designate the ten nominees from which list the governor was to appoint five to act upon the Board of Medical Examiners. . . .

**Organization.**—Probably the most valuable work which has ever been undertaken by our State Society is the active organization of the physicians in our state. . . .

Your Council believes most thoroughly that if this line of work be continued, if some member of this Society visit all the county societies in the state where public meetings may be arranged and where questions of vital public interest may be presented, not alone to physicians, but to prominent citizens, a vastly different feeling toward our profession will be brought about, and that our efforts in securing public health legislation and improved sanitary conditions will be greatly aided. Nor is this work of benefit to the public alone. . . .

**From an Article on "A Report of the First Two Hundred Confinements at the San Francisco Maternity," by Alfred Baker Spalding, M. D., San Francisco.**—Before the opening of the San Francisco Maternity, the medical students of San Francisco received an incomplete training in practical obstetrics, that important branch of medicine which so often forms the basis of their future practice. . . .

**From an Article on "A Case of Poisoning by Small Doses of Atropin," by Henry Walter Gibbons, M. D., San Francisco.**—Cases of poisoning by atropin are not very uncommon; but, as there are several points of interest in the following case, it might be of interest to report it.

**Board of Examiners.**—The governor has appointed the following as members of the State Board of Medical Examiners: Regulars, Doctors Cochran, Reinhardt, Mattison, James and Pope; Eclectics, Dougall and Mason; Homeopaths, Barnard and Tisdale; Osteopaths, Tasker and Sisson.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D.  
Director

**Rabies Situation Becomes More Serious.**—During the past few weeks rabies has become an important problem in several communities of California, chiefly Fresno, Merced, Tulare, Contra Costa and Imperial counties. The disease continues to be an acute problem in southern California counties, where it has maintained a stronghold for several years. Acute outbreaks in Fresno, Imperial, Contra Costa, Merced and Tulare counties during the past few weeks, however, have made the establishment of intensive control measures necessary in order that the spread of the disease may be checked. Since the touring season